



RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative: Targeted Site Efforts 2003

Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (5105T) & Office of Solid Waste (5303W) Quick Reference Fact Sheet

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Brownfields Prevention Initiative is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency effort that capitalizes on opportunities for statutory and regulatory flexibility in the RCRA cleanup program to accelerate site cleanup, facilitate dialogue, and integrate reuse and redevelopment issues, as appropriate, into cleanup decisions. In the longer term, EPA's goal for this initiative is to help expedite cleanups at RCRA sites, thus enabling the creation of new jobs, businesses, and greenspace for communities. The RCRA Targeted Site Efforts (TSEs) are designed to showcase Brownfields tools and RCRA Cleanup Reforms and also to emphasize the importance of addressing brownfields issues in RCRA cleanups.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected seven RCRA Brownfields Targeted Site Efforts (TSE) projects. TSE projects provide concentrated energy, attention, and resources to selected sites with redevelopment potential to move them forward in the cleanup process and to develop approaches and options for cleanup and reuse. In the first round of TSEs last year, EPA provided support to seven projects that focused primarily on community outreach and additional site assessment. With this second round of TSEs, EPA has again internally allocated resources to seven sites to support short-term activities directed at overcoming barriers to cleanup and redevelopment. These TSE projects will provide experiences that may help other sites facing similar challenges. The lessons learned may also yield useful information for other RCRA programs to consider.

The seven TSE projects selected by EPA are:

- **3-D Investments, Inc., Alda, Nebraska:** 3-D Investments, Incorporated is a 3.65-acre former gasoline service station and lead recovery smelter facility located south of Alda. The lead recovery facility closed after one year of operation due to suspected environmental contamination. EPA Region 7 has been investigating the site using the U.S. Geological Survey in Nebraska (USGS-NE), as necessary, for technical assistance through an interagency agreement. The facility's trustee has conducted some removal work and will fund the site cleanup. TSE support is proposed to be used for additional site characterization, public involvement efforts and other activities. This

support will help overcome a hurdle that has made it difficult to clean up the site. The result of the cleanup will be a site suitable to deed to Crane Meadows Nature Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to natural resource education and the preservation of Sandhill cranes.

3-D Investments, Inc. TSE Contact:

Andrea R. Stone, EPA Region 7, (913) 551-7662

- **Gaston Copper Recycling Corp., Gaston, South Carolina:** The Gaston Copper Recycling Corporation facility is a 400-acre, former secondary copper smelter located south of Gaston. With a good infrastructure, transportation access, and a nearby labor force, the facility is an attractive site for redevelopment. A stakeholder team used TSE funds last year to conduct two successful public meetings and determined that additional public involvement is crucial to completing the cleanup and revitalization of the site. Additional TSE support will increase public awareness of cleanup plans and keep stakeholders involved in decisionmaking, as recommended by the Corrective Action Reforms Initiative.

Gaston Copper Recycling Corp. TSE Contact:

Alan Newman, EPA Region 4, (404) 562-8589

- **Inchelium Wood Treatment Plant, Nespelam, Washington:** The Inchelium Wood Treatment Plant is an operating wood treatment facility on a 100-acre site at the edge of the large Colville Indian Reservation in north central Washington. About ten years ago, the tribe and a former site owner cleaned up a large underground storage tank spill. However, during the last 15 years of

wood treatment operations, chromated copper arsenate (CCA) has leaked into the site, raising worker safety concerns and leaving the future of the facility in doubt. The facility is faltering and may not be able to finance equipment changes to meet the proposed 2003 ban of CCA. The local population wants the site to continue to provide jobs. TSE contractor support is proposed to be used to perform site assessment planning, ensure proper use of waste handling procedures at the facility, and conduct public outreach that will help the local population explore alternative future uses for the site.

Inchelium Wood Treatment Plant TSE Contact:
Jack Boller, EPA Region 10, (360) 753-9428

- **FMC Site, Pocatello, Idaho:** The FMC Corporation's (FMC) Pocatello Elemental Phosphorous facility, which is mainly located within the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Fort Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho, produced elemental phosphorus between 1949 and 2001. The facility has been subject to RCRA's Subtitle C permitting program since 1990 and ceased operations in December 2001. FMC is in the process of dismantling the plant. The eastern portion of the property has significant redevelopment potential because of its close proximity to the City of Pocatello, a regional airport, interstate highways, and railroad lines, and access to production well water, low-cost electrical power, and high-capacity natural gas lines. However, a significant percentage of the surface area is a slag disposal site where trace radioactivity and other chemicals may be present. The Tribes propose to use EPA contractor assistance to review previous slag studies and other relevant site investigations and risk assessments; evaluate the regulatory status of the property; identify issues related to parceling, title transfer, and future liability; and analyze options for industrial redevelopment.

FMC Site TSE Contact:

Linda Meyer, EPA Region 10, (206) 553-6636

- **Tricil Plant, Muskegon Heights, Michigan:** The Tricil Plant is a 20-acre abandoned waste water treatment facility in the City of Muskegon Heights, a low-income, predominantly African-American community. The site is an excellent

candidate for redevelopment as a much needed middle-income housing project that will entice local young people to stay in the area. TSE contractor support is proposed to be used to conduct sampling at the site. A site assessment conducted in the 1990s indicated that contamination may not be an insurmountable barrier to redevelopment, but more sampling is needed to clear the site for reuse.

Tricil Plant TSE Contacts:

Ann Wentz, EPA Region 5, (312) 886-8097

- **Velsicol Chemical Corp., Memphis, Tennessee:** The Velsicol Chemical Corporation was responsible for discharging industrial process wastewaters containing pesticides into Cypress Creek in north Memphis from about 1946-1963. RCRA corrective action is underway at the plant, and Velsicol is also investigating several miles of Cypress Creek downstream of the plant. However, Velsicol, which is struggling to survive, is unable to readily investigate contamination along a 3/4-mile "posted and open green way" section of Cypress Creek known as the Upper Surge Basin, Sub-Area 4. TSE contractor support is proposed to be used to conduct a thorough human health and ecological investigation along the banks of Sub-Area 4 and to characterize contaminant hot spots. Reuse of this area, which is bordered by woods and open fields, will enhance the city's plans to establish recreational areas for inner city residents and help the Velsicol site meet Government Performance and Results Act goals. (These goals include the control of human exposure to contamination and the control of the migration of contaminated groundwater).

Velsicol Chemical Corp. TSE Contact:

Leo Romanowski, Jr., EPA Region 4, (404) 562-8485

- **Vision Metals, Inc., Rosenberg, Texas:** Vision Metals, Incorporated in Rosenberg, is a metal tubing manufacturer that ceased all production at the 197-acre facility and filed for bankruptcy in November 2000. The company is currently operating a groundwater treatment system in compliance with a post-closure permit, but it may have to cease operating the treatment system if a buyer cannot be found. A shutdown of the recovery wells will affect the ability of the facility to meet Government Performance and Results Act

goals and decrease the likelihood of finding a buyer that will assume full environmental responsibility for the site. The facility would benefit most from modifications to the wastewater treatment plant which would enhance long term treatment operations. Such improvements would promote community trust and ensure long term protection of human health and the environment. TSE contractor support is proposed to be used for options development and to conduct public outreach meetings about the project.

Vision Metals, Inc. TSE Contact:

Stephen Gilrein, EPA Region 6, (214) 665-8179

Note: The discussion of each TSE in this fact sheet is based on preliminary information on site facts and TSE project goals. It should be noted that EPA will determine the final goals and activities of each project as the workplan for each project is developed.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVE COMPONENTS

In addition to the Targeted Site Efforts, the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative includes training and outreach, RCRA Brownfields pilots, and clarification and streamlining of the cleanup and reuse process.

The Training and Outreach component of the Initiative focuses on identifying and addressing barriers to cleanup and redevelopment, sharing experiences and lessons learned, and promoting the use of regulatory tools and approaches to address cleanup and redevelopment challenges. Training and Outreach efforts seek to engage EPA and state project managers and legal staff, municipalities, business, industry, and other external stakeholder groups.

In the past, the Initiative has also supported nine, unfunded RCRA Brownfields Prevention pilot projects to showcase the flexibility in RCRA and, in particular, some of the concepts embodied in the RCRA Cleanup Reforms. The goal of this effort has been to showcase successes and innovations that can help communities achieve cleanup and redevelopment at RCRA sites. Although these pilots emphasize flexibility, EPA and the states continue to ensure protection of human health and the environment. No additional pilots are planned.

RCRA Corrective Action Reforms are a comprehensive effort to address the key impediments to cleanup, maximize program flexibility, and spur progress toward an ambitious set of national cleanup goals. The RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative enhances the implementation of the RCRA Reforms by highlighting the role of reuse in the cleanup process and by streamlining cleanup approaches.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative, please visit the RCRA Brownfields Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/rcrabf/>. For more information on EPA's Corrective Action Reforms, please visit the RCRA corrective action Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>. For more information about EPA's Brownfields program, please visit the EPA Brownfields program Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>.